

41PR-7777

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for cleaning wastewater comprising
locating-introducing wastewater brine into a flash tank;

circulating the brine under pressure through a heat exchanger to form heated brine;

decreasing the pressure of the heated brine during re-introduction of the pressurized, heated brine into the flash tank by an amount effective to transform at least a portion of water from the brine from liquid to steam; and

removing the steam from the flash tank.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the flash tank has a conical bottom.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the brine is pressurized by circulating the brine upstream against the head of the heat exchanger.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the brine is circulated at about 7 feet per second.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein decreasing the pressure is by passing the pressurized, heated brine through a fog nozzle.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the pressure is decreased from about 25 psi (37.2 Pa) to about atmospheric pressure.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising passing the steam through a demister.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising introducing the steam to an air stream for atmospheric venting.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising filtering a portion of the brine from the flash tank with a filter to remove solids.

41PR-7777

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the solids are dewatered.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the filtering and dewatering is by a filter press.
- 12 - 24. (Cancelled)
25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein circulating the brine under pressure through a heat exchange media heats the brine to a temperature between about 220 to about 230°F.
26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising condensing the steam to form water.
27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the filter is a plate-type filter and the heat exchanger is a shell and tube heat exchanger.
28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising automatically removing the dewatered solids from the filter press.
29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the dewatered solids are automatically removed from the filter press by a shaker system.
30. (Currently Amended) A method for cleaning wastewater, comprising:
- circulating wastewater brine under pressure through a shell and tube heat exchanger to form heated brine;
- decreasing the pressure of the heated brine during introduction of the heated brine into the a flash tank by an amount effective to transform at least a portion of the heated brine to steam;
- and
- removing the steam from the flash tank.

41PR-7777

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising
filtering a portion of the heated brine from the flash tank to remove solids; and
dewatering the solids to form dewatered solids;
wherein the filtering and dewatering is by a filter press.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising automatically
removing the dewatered solids from the filter press.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the dewatered solids are
automatically removed from the filter press by a shaker system.